

Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

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Georgia National Cemetery

2025 Mount Carmel Church Lane
Canton, GA 30114

- The new 775-acre national cemetery in western Cherokee County, Ga., will serve veterans' needs for the next 50 years. The cemetery began burial operations on April 24, 2006.
- The property on which the future cemetery rests was donated by Scott Hudgens, the late Atlanta World War II veteran, land developer and philanthropist. The site lies midway between Cartersville and Canton, near the Etowah River, offering views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Lake Allatoona.
- VA expects to open the new cemetery for burials in Spring 2006 with a patriotic ceremony, even though not all of the cemetery structures will be completed by that time. This "early turn over" plan is aimed at serving as many of the region's aging veterans as quickly as possible. During the "early turn over," grave space will be available for casketed remains and in-ground burial of cremated remains in a small-scale development separate from the major phase one construction project.
- J. M. Wilkerson Construction Company, Inc., of Marietta, Ga., was awarded the construction contract in December 2004. In addition to an entrance area, an information center, administration and maintenance building, public restrooms, flag plaza, shelters for committal services, the project will include a total of 29,000 full-casket gravesites, 3,000 in-ground sites for cremation remains and 3,000 columbaria niches for cremation remains.
- Burial arrangements will be made after death, as with all national cemeteries. VA does not reserve grave space. Veterans whose discharges are other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children may be buried in a national cemetery, regardless of where they live.
- Cemetery Director Sandra Beckley will answer questions about burial and eligibility and will distribute additional information. She may be contacted at (866) 236-8159 or email at sbeckley@cem.va.gov.